

25th Anniversary Special Edition

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Greenbelt, Maryland

Thursday, September 13, 1962

CO-OPS AND CIVIC GROUPS 1937-62

One of the most distinctive features of Greenbelt is its cooperatives. This aspect of Greenbelt life is more or less taken for granted by local residents, but to hundreds of visitors each year, it remains one of the town's chief attractions and wonderments. The cooperative seed was planted as early as September 1937 when the Department of Agriculture signed an agreement with a cooperative founded by Edward A. Filene to organize all commercial enterprises in Greenbelt on a consumer cooperative basis.

Other cooperatives soon followed: to name a few, the *Greenbelt Co-operator*, Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, Cooperative Nursery School, and the Greenbelt Health Association. In the post-war period, the residents formed a mutual housing corporation — now known as Greenbelt Homes, Inc. — to purchase the dwelling units from the Federal government. More recently, other cooperatives, such as the Cooperative Kindergarten, Twin Pines Savings and Loan Association, and Woodland Hills association, were organized.

GREENBELT CONSUMER SERVICES

On December 15, 1937, the Greenbelt Food Store was formally opened with elaborate ceremonies, although a small, temporary store had been serving the residents since October 3. That first small store, located in the space now occupied by Tanner's Cleaners, was the forerunner of many other services that were soon provided by GCS: service station, drug store, barber shop, movie theater, and variety store.

When Greenbelt was constructed in 1937, it was an isolated community far from Washington. The Government had built a shopping center but could not find merchants willing to move in and invest in a business to serve this experimental low-income housing project.

A non-profit organization agreed to sponsor a cooperative if the residents should decide they wanted to own and operate the stores. This was the Consumer Distribution Corporation, backed with funds provided by Edward A. Filene, Boston department store entrepreneur and philanthropist. It advanced the sum of \$50,000 to organize a subsidiary, Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc. (GCS), which would set up and operate the stores in trust for the

consumer-owned co-op which was expected to be organized.

The whole town voted for leaders to set up a Cooperative Organizing Committee in April 1938, and about 50 active workers in the community began stock sales with the understanding that the co-op would take over GCS when half the town's residents became members. A year later shareholders representing a majority of the town's families met and elected the co-op's first board of directors.

On January 9, 1940, the co-op took over the operation of the stores, which had 35 employees and were grossing over a third of a million dollars annually. A sum of \$5,000, raised primarily through the sale of stock to over 400 Greenbelters, was paid to Consumer Distribution Corporation as an initial down payment. A debt of \$35,000 remained, which was paid off in less than 6 years.

During this period of growth and consumer education, the Rochdale principles, the twin pine trees symbol, and the CO-OP label on merchandise became familiar. An active member education committee helped young housewives learn how to get more for their consumer dollar, and the by-laws were worked over care-

Third of Three

This is the third and final special edition that the *News Review* is publishing this summer commemorating the 25th anniversary of Greenbelt. The first edition of July 5 described the history of Greenbelt. The second of August 9 dealt with the history of Greenbelt's organizations and institutions. The present edition continues this history and includes interesting sidelights of a personal nature on Greenbelt's development.

fully to guarantee a democratic organization.

The construction of 1,000 defense homes in 1941-42 sorely taxed the shopping facilities of Greenbelt. A site had been set aside for a North End shopping center, but there were no funds available. For some residents of North End, the shopping center was now over a mile walking distance, mostly unlevel land.

Added Services

GCS filled the breach as best it could. In January 1943 it converted four of the rental units on Laurel Hill road into a temporary grocery store, which stayed in existence until 1956. GCS also established a Co-op Pantry or traveling market—a store on wheels that made the rounds of the town daily with a varied stock of groceries, fruits, and other supplies, conveniently displayed for customers who walked through the truck. This service continued until September 1950.

A bus line was also established by GCS in 1945, bringing customers from all parts of the town to the center. The charge was a nickel. The bus driver even delivered prescriptions from the drug store.

Samuel F. Ashelman, Jr. was hired as general manager in November

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1944, and GCS embarked on an expansion program with a stock drive to raise enough members' capital to provide new facilities in Greenbelt. In the following two years the idea for a new building to house a supermarket, restaurant, and recreation facilities, was developed. Lengthy negotiations with the government during this period ended in obtaining a 42-year lease on a plot of ground and permission to put up a building subject to PHA approval.

By the spring of 1947, when this approval was finally obtained, construction costs had doubled, and it was decided to proceed first with the supermarket portion of the building originally planned. The building, with some 20,000 square feet of floor space, had a curtain wall at the far side which could be removed for further additions to the structure.

The opening of Greenbelt's new supermarket on November 9, 1948 marked another milestone in the growth of "the people's business" in Greenbelt. The event came at the beginning of the twelfth year of the Greenbelt Shopping Center.

In August 1953, GCS purchased the land under the supermarket plus an adjacent tract of 20,000 square feet. When the rest of the commercial properties were sold to a private real estate firm in October 1954, GCS decided to vacate its various stores in the center and consolidate its food, drug, and general merchandise operations into the supermarket building. The latter building was expanded at a cost of \$200,000 for this purpose. Also vacated in 1956 was the old gasoline station when GCS opened up a new \$100,000 station on Southway.

Expansion

After much debate, the first new area outside of Greenbelt was developed with the opening of the co-op shopping center at Takoma Park in August 1951. An even larger co-op shopping center was opened at Wheaton in December 1954. Then came Rockville in May 1957 and Piney Branch in September of the same year. Meanwhile, in September, 1956, the consumers' cooperative at Westminster, in Carroll county, merged with GCS.

Members now have \$2 million invested in this "people's business"



The GCS service station on Southway during construction in October 1956. Ed Burgoon, then co-op petroleum supervisor, is pointing out objects of interest to Danny Jones, then station manager.

which started in Greenbelt. A merger with Rochdale Cooperative, February 1, 1959 added the stores at Falls Church and Fairlington to Greenbelt's consumer strength. Since then, GCS has acquired stores at Penn-Daw, south of Alexandria, Virginia, at Penn-Mar in Forestville, and at Dundalk in Baltimore. A new warehouse and central offices at Beltsville, and such added services as baked goods and imported Scandinavian furniture now serve consumers' needs.

As of February 1, 1962 the board replaced Ashelman as general manager by a contract with Checchi and Company, management consultants. Robert E. Morrow now serves as acting resident manager for the co-op. He is best known to present-day residents for his speedy action in working with the Greenbelt Area Delegation to get rebuilding underway following the disastrous fire

which gutted the co-op supermarket this spring. Opening of the new market, complete with bakery and drugstore, is scheduled for the middle of October by Mr. Morrow and Ben Rosenzweig, long-time Greenbelt resident who serves as president of GCS.

First day sales were \$11.45 to 24 customers when Greenbelt's first food store opened October 3, 1937. Today Greenbelt Consumer Services serves shopping needs of nearly 25,000 members and thousands of other consumers through supermarkets, drug stores, and service stations in 11 locations. Daily sales now run about \$70,000.

The little co-op store that started in Greenbelt has repaid \$833,000 in patronage refunds. Dividends on membership shares of stock over the years amount to \$537,000.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

Six weeks after the first residents of Greenbelt unpacked their household belongings, the town had a newspaper. Recognizing the immediate need for a news medium, the first families formed on November 11, 1937 a Journalistic Club and adopted a tentative plan calling for the issuance of six numbers of a weekly journal to be known as the *Greenbelt Cooperator*.

The policies of the paper, as formulated at that meeting, were: to serve as a nonprofit enterprise, to remain nonpartisan in politics, to remain neutral in religious matters, to print the news accurately and regularly, to make its pages an open forum for civic affairs, to develop a staff of volunteer writers, and to create a

"good neighbor" spirit, promote friendship, advance the common good, and develop a "Greenbelt philosophy of life."

These principles still guide the motives and actions of the present *Greenbelt News Review*, the direct descendant of the *Greenbelt Cooperator*. The name was changed in September 1954 in order to clarify the independent status of the paper. The Journalistic Club lasted until July 1940, when it was converted into the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, which has continued the sponsorship of the paper to this date. An incorporation charter for the Association was granted in September 1941 by the District of Columbia.

The first issue of the *Cooperator*, appearing on November 24, 1937, was a neatly mimeographed paper containing sixteen letter-sized pages of local news and editorial content. Before the sixth experimental issue had been distributed, the townspeople so clearly recognized the need for such an organ that the staff decided to continue its publication. Since then the newspaper has appeared regularly every week for a quarter of a century without interruption.

The paper was prepared at the homes of various staff members until January 1938, when quarters were secured at the town center. To meet the costs of paper, ink, and stencils, a charge of five cents per copy was made, beginning with the issue of January 5, 1938. Distribution was turned over to the Boy Scout troop, which was allowed to retain two cents for each paper sold.

The editorship of the paper changed hands rapidly during the early years. This may have been due to the fact, as one former staff member observed, that "more often than not, the morning sun shone on the faces of the amateur journalists as they trudged home from 'putting the paper to bed.'" Among the editors in the first two years were Louis Bessemer, William R. Poole, Robert Volckhausen, Howard C. Custer, Aaron Chinitz, George A. Warner, and Donald H. Cooper.

Printed Format

In September 1938 the newspaper experimented with a printed paper. The preparation of a mimeographed paper had become altogether too burdensome for the few available volunteers. Cutting and running stencils and assembling and stapling the paper lacked the romance customarily associated with news-gathering, writing, editing, proof-reading, and makeup.

The experiment was not satisfactory. As explained by the editor, "the old paper was attractive but illegible, and the new one legible, but unattractive." Consequently, the next issues were prepared by the photo-offset process. This new-style newspaper was reproduced photographically by a Washington printing house from "dummy" sheets prepared by the local news staff. The result was a 16-page letter-size sheet, later expanded to tabloid size, with attractive and timely illustrations, many of which reproduced from "on the spot" photographs snapped by the paper's own cameramen. The photo-offset method was followed until the issue of August 22, 1941, when the printed format was again adopted.

That the newspaper to this day is still concerned with problems of for-

Donald H. Cooper
Lillian Schwartz
Dorothea Ford
Francis Fosnight
Donald H. Cooper
Waldo Mott
Don O'Reilly
Anne Hull
Eleanor Ritchie
Ralph G. Miller
Edith Nicholas
Anne Hull
Sally Meredith
Edward Meredith
Isadore J. Parker
Sally Meredith
Harry M. Zubkoff
Janice Solet
Ralph G. Miller
Bernard Krug
Harry M. Zubkoff
Russell S. Greenbaum
Harry M. Zubkoff
Isadore J. Parker
Harry M. Zubkoff
Russell S. Greenbaum
Virginia Beauchamp

News Review Editors

September 1939 - May 1940
May 1940 - August 1940
August 1940 - November 1940
November 1940 - June 1942
June 1942 - February 1943
June 1943 - November 1943
November 1943 - September 1944
September 1944 - July 1945
July 1945 - April 1946
May 1946 - October 1946
October 1946 - February 1947
February 1947 - September 1947
September 1947 - October 1948
October 1948 - June 1949
June 1949 - December 1949
January 1950 - July 1950
July 1950 - May 1952
May 1952 - October 1952
December 1952 - March 1953
April 1953 - October 1953
October 1953 - October 1954
October 1954 - January 1955
March 1955 - September 1955
October 1955 - September 1956
October 1956 - February 1960
February 1960 - May 1962
June 1962 -

mat is evidenced by the fact that during the last two years the *News Review* has again experimented with the photo-offset process. An important element in this decision was the lower cost of printing offered by the photo-offset process. This experiment lasted from December 1, 1960 to May 1, 1962, when the improved financial position of the paper induced its governing body to revert back to the letterpress method which had been employed since 1941. The staff generally felt that the letterpress method produces a more attractive appearing paper. It also permits more flexibility in the size of the paper, since papers in multiples of two pages can be printed.

Free Delivery

An important development in the history of the newspaper was the decision to deliver the *Cooperator* free of charge to every home in town, beginning with the issue of September 7, 1939. The additional cost of local distribution was small, and this radical change of policy provided larger circulation figures, which could be used as evidence of the value of advertising in the paper. The idea clicked. Greenbelt Consumer Services immediately discontinued its practice of advertising by circular and put the funds into increased *Cooperator* advertising. As the paper's distribution was now community-wide, others followed suit, and the town government engaged more and more space for the publication of pending ordinances, budgets, and the like.

The policy of free distribution remained unchanged until July 1953,

when the paper was forced by financial straits to go to a subscription basis — \$3 a year. The response was fairly encouraging, but the added cost of maintaining subscription records convinced the governing body that the additional income was not worth the additional workload. In January 1955, the paper went back to city-wide circulation.

Financial difficulties continued to plague the newspaper and appeals were made to the businesses and organizations in town for funds. Finally, in April 1959, the *News Review* resorted to a house-to-house, community-wide drive for funds. Organized by the drive chairman, Elaine Skolnik, who was aided by 125 volunteer court collectors, the drive netted over \$1,500. It proved such an unqualified success that it was renewed again the following year. The yield from these drives has been sufficient to make other drives unnecessary since 1960.

The *News Review* has had several homes since its inception. From its second-floor quarters in the commercial center, the paper has moved to a successive number of offices — 8 Parkway in May 1943; 14 Parkway in September 1950; 52-E Ridge in February 1953; and then its present basement office at 15 Parkway in May 1953. The staff is made up essentially of volunteer workers, although since March 1957, the governing body has authorized, when finances permit, the payment of nominal amounts to the editorial staff and columnists.

CREDIT UNION

There being no banking facilities provided for Greenbelt, a group of pioneer families put their heads together and decided to organize a credit union. The charter for the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union was issued on December 13, 1937, by W. J. Myers, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

The first annual membership meeting, held on January 19, 1938, found the credit union with 27 members. By year end there were 334 members, \$5,900 in members' savings, loans of \$5,200, and total assets of \$6,175. The new organization thrived and steadily increased in size, assisted later by the co-op store operations, which provided space without charge for the expanding credit union. The following table shows the growth of the credit union over the years:

Year End	Assets
1940	\$ 22,100.00
1945	54,800.00
1950	67,100.00
1955	95,100.00
1960	255,000.00
1962 (6-30)	440,000.00

During the early years, the credit union was considered the stork's right hand man in Greenbelt. The Credit Committee was frequently called upon for emergency meetings, and many a Greenbelt baby was born with a loan application clenched in his front teeth — almost!

Although the credit union was from its inception a valuable community service, it was in 1952 that it was faced with its greatest challenge of service to Greenbelt. In the latter part of that year, PHA,

the government agency which was selling the project announced that down payments on at least 500 (about one-third) of the homes must be made by the end of the year in order for the resident-formed corporation to buy the project. Most lending agencies were reluctant to lend money for down payments on the homes. The credit union was swamped with loan applications and its funds were soon exhausted. Additional funds were raised through a campaign for savings and through borrowing from the Pentagon Federal Credit Union. In all, about 125 of the initial 500 homes purchased were financed through the credit union.

In January 1955, the credit union moved from the rent-free GCS quarters, because of the expanding GCS operation which necessitated that it occupy all available office space, and rented an office adjacent to the city offices; and in the spring of 1957 moved to the Nationwide Insurance office. In January 1961 the credit union moved into its present office at 153 Centerway in order to provide better service for its expanding membership. Operating without a sponsor, the Greenbelt credit union has successfully achieved a place in the business community.

Following are members of the board of directors of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union: Ben Rosenzweig, President; James S. Beck, Vice President; Earl Knickelbein, Secretary; Joe Comproni, Treasurer; Joseph C. Cherry, Stephen Cottrelle, and Albert Bistany.

TWIN PINES

During the summer of 1957 a group of Greenbelters gathered to discuss the problems involved in financing the resale of cooperative homes in Greenbelt. The credit union was lending money for this purpose, but was limited to three-year loans at that time. The Suburban Trust Co. had stopped making these loans because of their banking laws. The group decided, therefore, to organize a savings and loan association which would specialize in co-op home loans.

The organizing meeting of Twin Pines Savings and Loan Association was held in September 1957 at the Center School. The meeting adopted Articles of Incorporation and By Laws, and then proceeded with elections. The initial board of directors consisted of R. G. Tugwell, Charles T. McDonald, Anthony M. Madden, Bruce Bowman, Eleanor Ritchie, George C. Reeves and Harry Weidberg, with Earl Ogburn and Robert Garin serving as alternates.

Harvey Geller, Cyrilla O'Connor, and Joseph Comproni were elected to serve on the supervisory committee, with George Jones and Leonard Baron as alternates. Robert Hull, Martin Haker, James Bates, Alan Kistler and James Cassels were elected to the nominating committee.

Twin Pines is a cooperative, owned and controlled by its savers and borrowers. Its purpose is to promote thrift and to make loans on co-op homes. While doing this, it strives to act as a responsible citizen in the community.

Did You Know ?

That the elementary children at Center School in the fall of 1937 started a Junior co-operative to purchase candy, pencils, paper, etc. and received wide publicity in the metropolitan press as the "Gumdrop Co-op!"

That the first board of directors of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union elected on December 22, 1937 included present Greenbelt Edward Thornhill.

That among the charter members of the Woman's Club of Greenbelt in November 1939 were present Greenbelt residents Delpha T. McCarl, Carnie Harper, and Ruth Taylor.

That in June 1940 the town played host for a vacation week to a group of refugee children and even raised funds to defray transportation costs to and from New York.

That there were five farm-type dwellings on the Greenbelt site which the Federal Government purchased in

1935.

That the first residents of Greenbelt had to do without street lights — a fact that was mentioned in Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's column "My Day" after her visit to Greenbelt on December 9, 1937.

That the first residents in Greenbelt were selected in ratio to their religious and occupational representation in the metropolitan district of Washington, D. C. — for example, that 70 percent of the wage earners were government workers and 30 percent non-government workers.

That the government had 9,000 applications for the 885 rental units available in Greenbelt.

That one of the first suggestions made by new residents of Greenbelt was to set up rustic swinging gates under every pedestrian underpass so as to curb bicycle "speed artists" who liked to burn up the sidewalks in

their passage through these protective areas?

That the "dog and cat" controversy so raised the blood pressure of Greenbelters from the first that a December 22, 1937 *Cooperator* editorial suggested a moratorium on this subject in letters to the editor.

That the official explanation for some original Greenbelt homes being constructed out of cinder block and concrete and others out of brick with wood framework and sheathing was to share the "made-work" between unskilled workers and skilled carpenters.

That Dr. James W. McCarl opened his dental office at 30-A Ridge in May 1938.

That during the first summer some 336 garden and vegetable plots, 2500 square feet each, were under cultivation, one for every two families.

Housing Facilities

GREENBELT HOMES, INC.

On January 1, 1953 an important new chapter of Greenbelt history began. A citizen-owned organization took over effective control of more than eighty per cent of the dwellings at that time and began its own operation without external supervision.

When Congress authorized the Public Housing Administration in 1948 to liquidate the Federal Government ownership of Greenbelt, it was only natural that the tenants believed that they should have the opportunity to purchase their homes collectively. Having been designed as rental property with interlocking utility and heating services, the properties could not be sold separately to individuals. Congress provided that present tenants were to be accepted into any group-purchase on the same terms as veterans, to whom first preference of purchase was given.

Greenbelt residents had years of experience in doing things together in a spirit of cooperation, whether in providing consumer services, operating a nursery school, a weekly newspaper, a credit union or a health association. As early as 1940 a group was organized to build homes on vacant land in Greenbelt, the Greenbelt Homeowners' Cooperative, Incorporated. The war disrupted plans. In 1946 the Greenbelt Mutual Housing Association was formed and later incorporated in 1947 as the Greenbelt Mutual Homeownership Corporation. Its purpose was to purchase and operate the homes on a non-profit basis with a view toward Greenbelt citizens' purchase of their homes.

Veterans Organize

Five World War II veterans, serving as directors of GMHC, incorporated as the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation to enable qualification for purchase under Public Law 65 in 1949 and invited the other corporation to transfer its membership and assets to the new Veteran corporation. Purchase negotiations were initiated.

The Korean conflict caused an abeyance of the sale for about two years. In 1952 the negotiated sale was earnestly pursued by both the cooperative and the Public Housing Administration, and resulted in a sale for \$6,285,450 of 1,575 dwelling units at the close of that year. The word "Veteran" in the corporate name proved misleading to persons

desiring to move to Greenbelt after a few years. Therefore, in July 1957 the name was changed to Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI).

Not all Greenbelt citizens favored the sale or the plan of cooperative purchase and operation. Some open opposition was developed. When the time arrived to close the transaction, about one-fourth of the down payment was not subscribed by Greenbelt residents. The Nationwide Insurance Company (then Farm Bureau Insurance Co.) loaned the young corporation the balance. Each member-owner paid the ten per cent of the appraised value of his residence. As the remaining units were sold, the borrowed funds were repaid. The properties provided rental income until sold, based upon a higher monthly charge than member-owners paid.

GHI declined the Government's invitation to enter into a negotiated purchase of the Greenbelt Shopping Center, or of the 306 apartment dwellings, since a canvass of the occupants showed little interest in cooperative home ownership. GHI did purchase 707 acres of undeveloped land which surrounded its member-owners' homes in order to establish suitable development controls in keeping with the planning standards established by the United States Government.

Undeveloped Land

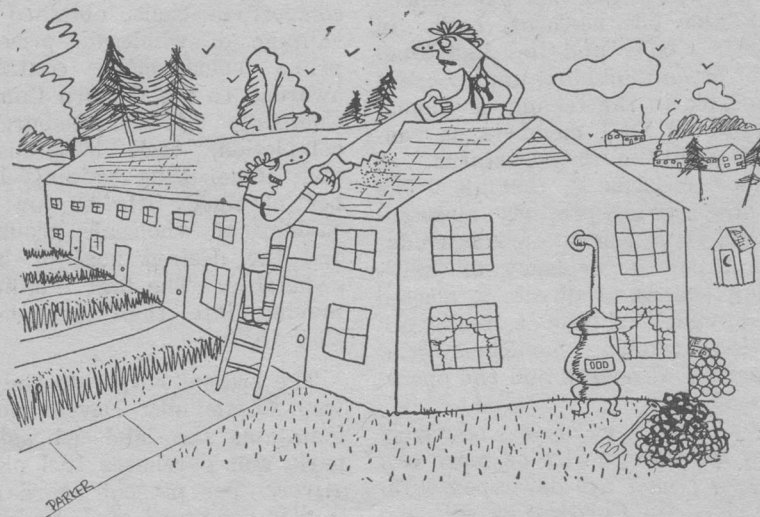
The undeveloped land was held by a wholly-owned subsidiary corporation, the Greenbelt Land Improve-

ment Corporation, (GLIC) under a separate mortgage to the Federal Government and free of any liability responsibility upon the individual member-owners of GHI. All the down payment funds and initial working capital were borrowed from the Nationwide Insurance Company.

GLIC engaged a city planner to prepare a master plan of land use for this land to ensure a continuance of the planning ideals and afford protection to GHI homes and the City of Greenbelt. GHI organized a sales cooperative, called Lakeside Home Owners, Inc., to develop individual home sites on land near the Greenbelt Lake and sold the tract to the newly organized group, many of whom were GHI members. In a similar manner GHI encouraged a second group, many of whom were GHI members, to form another sales-type cooperative to purchase and develop home sites in a near-by section called Woodland Hills. Out of these endeavors two attractive new sections were added to the City of Greenbelt and GHI members desiring fee simple home ownership were satisfied.

Since the mortgage provisions permitted GLIC to sell in no less than twenty-five acre parcels, the Corporation was handicapped in developing and selling individual home sites. One or two other sales-type cooperative undertakings failed to materialize and GLIC found it necessary to sell the entire tract remaining because of heavy carrying costs. The sale specified that the purchaser

"I told them I wanted no part of Co-op housing"



This is the famous cartoon by Isadore Parker which appeared originally in the *Cooperator* in 1945 at the time that a mutual housing cooperative was organized by the residents to purchase the project from the Federal Government. The residents as usual were divided in their support of the cooperative.

would follow the master plan of land use developed for the land and save fifty per cent of the tree coverage.

The sale of the land was made to the Warner-Kanter Construction Company which had already demonstrated its development work in the sister "Green town" of Green Hills, near Cincinnati, Ohio. While GHI made a substantial financial gain through the sale and paid off all indebtedness to Nationwide, the sale contained the provision that the profit would not be used to benefit any individual or individuals, but would be used in such a manner as to benefit Greenbelt.

Other Properties

GHI purchased for \$166,812 sixty of the three-story apartments in 1953 along with 52 garages and choice land by means of public auction by the Federal Government. This transaction was, likewise, handled through a wholly-owned subsidiary corporation, the Greenbelt Development Corporation. The twenty-five per cent down payment and initial working capital were borrowed from Nationwide Insurance Company and were subsequently repaid ahead of schedule. The apartments are operated as rental properties and serve to help GHI members by spreading costs and providing corporate income.

In 1957 GHI purchased the former North End Store, which had been permitted to deteriorate through vacancy, and conducted a restoration of a near-slum condition to one of attractive units which were incorporated into the cooperative structure. Three acres of land were jointly acquired with the possible idea of constructing housing for elderly persons. This improvement work is self-liquidating with the use of corporate funds.

The Corporation has grown steadily over the years and has experienced considerable advancement, both in corporate body and in individual homes. Much individual improvement is traceable to the feeling of home-ownership of GHI members as contrasted with the former status of Greenbelt citizens as tenants. The high standard of property maintenance and improvement in commonly-owned areas is evidence of hard-working boards of directors, elected by the members, and a teamwork operation involving member-owners, the board of directors and the operating staff.

While GHI becomes relatively smaller percentage-wise as more and more new homes are developed within the city, the Corporation will continue its policy of directing its decisions toward the carefully planned growth and beautification of Greenbelt. GHI's physical position in the

heart of the city, and its heritage of Greenbelt planning under the Federal Government, prescribe this GHI responsibility.

GHI Presidents

Michael H. Salzman —
Jan. 1953 - Aug. 1953
Ralph F. Webster —
Aug. 1953 - Dec. 1954
Edward A. Burgoon —
Jan. 1955 - May 1962
Harry M. Zubkoff —
May 1962 -

GHI General Managers

Paul M. Campbell —
Jan. 1953 - Feb. 1957
John O. Walker —
Feb. 1957 - Sept. 1959
Paul M. Campbell —
Oct. 1959 - Aug. 1962
Royal D. Breshears —
Aug. 1962 -

WOODLAND HILLS

Born as a non-profit cooperative housing venture on April 29, 1954, the Woodland Hills subdivision of Greenbelt presently has over forty families residing on twenty acres of wooded lots, bordering on Northway and Woodland Way Roads.

The land was purchased on December 22, 1955 from the Greenbelt Land Improvement Corp. and subdivided by the cooperative into forty-nine lots. They were laid out in such a manner that the houses are surrounded by a strip of woodland on the edges of the tract and a two-acre park has been left in the center.

The original twenty-one homes in Woodland Hills were the first cooperative type subdivision of its kind to be insured under Section 213 of the Federal Housing Authority Act. The members, by pooling together and awarding contracts to builders on a competitive basis, obtained the advantage of wholesale prices. The prime construction contract was awarded to the Ogburn Construction Company of Bladensburg. After completion, each individual member obtained title to his own lot savings of wholesale group buying and the desired goal of individual ownership. The first families began moving into their new homes in May 1957.

The present corporate body, Woodway Community Development, Inc., maintains the land set aside as a park, and purchases fuel oil cooperatively. The present board of directors is composed of J. Richard Hoffman, President; Mrs. Marilyn Malloy, Secretary; Charles A. Kiddy, Treasurer; J. Laurence Noel, Jr., Fred Hahn; Mrs. Charles McDonald.

LAKESIDE

The Lakeside Association is a civic group composed of the residents and property owners of Lakeside, Greenbelt's first private home sub-division. The Lakeside development can claim two other firsts for Greenbelt — the first purchase of undeveloped land and the first private home to be built after sale of the city by the Federal Government.

The Lakeside organization dates back to 1952, when a group of residents formed Lakeside Home Owners, Inc., to negotiate the purchase of a twenty-five acre section of undeveloped land for private home construction following the opening of such land sale by GVHC. The contract for final sale was completed the following year, establishing Lakeside Estates consisting of sixty-five lots located parallel to Braden Field and extending down the side of the Greenbelt Lake. Following completion of the purchase, the corporation was dissolved and the name changed to Lakeside Association.

The first home was completed in December 1954 and the Edward Brooks family became Lakeside's first residents. Since that time lot owners building at their own desired time have completed 48 more homes, and individually styled homes have become Lakeside's landmark. The subdivision roadways were accepted into the city system in October 1955.

The first president of this organization was Benjamin Goldfaden and the current officers include Bill Stevenson, President; George Neumann, Vice-President; Eileen Labukas, Secretary; and Norman Moraff, Treasurer.

LAKEWOOD

The Lakewood section of Greenbelt consists of 102 free standing homes started in 1958 and completed in 1959. The home designs won an award for the builder as the Home of the Year. The arrangement of the homes in the development utilized the natural contours of the land, preserving as much of the green areas as possible. The first home owners in this project were Mr. and Mrs. William Kline.

An integral part of Lakewood is the Lakewood Citizens Association, which began with an idea by John Murray and William Grenier. The purpose of the association is to "provide Lakewood Citizens with a means to participate collectively in community affairs," thus enabling Lakewood to make a greater contribution to the social and civic activities of Greenbelt.

Civic Organizations

WOMAN'S CLUB

Organization of the Woman's Club of Greenbelt took place on November 17, 1939 with sixteen charter members. The flowering crab apple was chosen as the Club flower. With Angus MacGregor, Greenbelt's landscape gardener, the club joined in plans to beautify the city and donated two crab apple trees.

For many years, club meetings were held in the homes of members, but as membership increased, it was arranged to meet in the social hall of the Community Building (Center School). By 1950 the roster had grown to fifty-four members. In 1956 the club moved to the Fellowship Hall of the Community Church, where it still meets.

During the period 1939-1941, the club was accepted for membership in both the Prince Georges County and the Maryland Federation of Woman's Clubs.

Activities benefiting the youth were among the favorite projects undertaken by the Woman's Club over the years. It participated in the formation of the town band made up of boys and girls. An annual scholarship award was set up. After the "Drop Inn" was acquired as a meeting place for young people, the club played an important role acting as hostesses. Both the "Drop Inn" and the Youth Center received financial aid from the club. A gift of \$250 went to the Youth Center to furnish a cloak room.

The Woman's Club has always been active in hospital work. In appreciation of the support given the Prince Georges General Hospital, the club was invited to be enrolled as a member of the Hospital Guild. The adoption of a ward at Glenn Dale Hospital was one of the club's many welfare projects.

During the war the Woman's Club became active in USO and Red Cross work. The women sold bonds in the theatre lobby, and three members made a service flag for the Greenbelt Band to be used as members joined the armed forces.

Other activities participated in were the Blood Bank, Bloodmobile, Mobile X-Ray Unit, polio drives, inauguration of the town rescue squad, sending of Care packages, gifts to veteran's hospitals, packages to Greenbelt boys in Korea, and first aid classes. Members have completed a club cookbook and participated in

AMERICAN LEGION

At the first gathering of the early citizens of Greenbelt, held in the local school auditorium on November 2, 1937, a few veterans of World War I discussed the formation of a veteran's organization in the community. From these men, David Steinle, George Bryant, Jennings Craig, Howard Carr, George Berkalew, Allen Morrison and Leon Benefiel, the nucleus of Post No. 136 was formed. Shortly thereafter an organizational meeting was held in the city manager's office, and it was decided to charter an American Legion Post. A temporary charter was granted on January 31, 1938, with a permanent charter granted the following November to fifty-eight charter members.

Today's building is a far cry from the three-story, ten-room farm house acquired by the Federal Government when the land was purchased for the town of Greenbelt. It was seventy years old on January 9, 1939, when the Legion Post signed a rental con-

tract for five years at \$15 a year and it needed just about everything to make it usable. Repair and remodeling were done by members of the Post, who fortunately included electricians, carpenters and plumbers, and, to quote from Leon Benefiel's History of Post No. 136, "general workers."

The first meeting was held at the Home on April 20, 1939, and the ritual of dedication was performed by Lansdale G. Sasscer, then a member of the House of Representatives, at a ceremony held in the school on December 16, 1939. Pre-Home meetings were held in the office over the drug store and later in the room over Dr. James W. McCarl's office.

In June 1949 the Post purchased the property for \$2,000, including over three acres of land. This transaction was the first sale of Greenbelt land by the Government, following the announcement of its intention to sell all of Greenbelt.

A hall forty by eighty feet was built at the rear of the building during 1947 and 1948. The building was further renovated in August 1954 by the addition of two wings.

Greenbelt Post has grown to the largest in Southern Maryland, and the sixth largest in the State, with a present membership of over seven hundred.

SITTER'S POOL

The Sitter's Pool consists of a group of parents who have joined forces to solve their babysitting problems. A cooperative babysitting service, the Greenbelt pool has been operating for approximately sixteen years and is thought to be one of the oldest in the state of Maryland. There are about 30 members in the sitter's pool at present.

Presidents

Mrs. Mary Lloyd Willis	1939-1941
Mrs. Leon G. Benefiel	1941-1943
Mrs. George E. Clarke	1943-1945
Mrs. Sam Houlton	1945-1946
Mrs. Hartford Downs	1946-1947
Mrs. James Gobbel	1947-1949
Mrs. E. Leland Love	1949-1951
Mrs. Donald F. Romer	1951-1953
Miss Cyrilla O'Connor	1953-1954
Mrs. Henley Goode	1954-1955
Mrs. Jay W. Brubaker	1955-1957
Mrs. Lawrence O. Mott	1957-1959
Mrs. Adelbert Long	1959-1961
Mrs. C. Wayne Tucker	1961-1962
Mrs. Charles McDonald	1962-



The Home of American Legion Post No. 136 on Greenbelt rd. at the time of its dedication on August 29, 1954.

GREENBELT LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club of Greenbelt was organized by a group of twenty-six business, professional, and civic-minded men in February 1952. A charter was granted by the International Association of Lions Clubs, the world's largest, most active, and most representative service club organization. Greenbelt is a part of Lions District 22C, which includes the District of Columbia and adjacent counties in Maryland.

Lions Clubs have a purpose more than that of good fellowship and club social life — it is to recognize community needs and develop means of meeting them, either through independent effort or in cooperation with other organizations. Fields of endeavor include sight conservation, youth advancement, health and welfare, and community betterment. Specifically, the Greenbelt Club has made substantial financial contributions and has cooperated with other civic organizations to promote the following programs: Youth Center of Greenbelt; Eye Bank Program of District 22C; Scholarship Program through High Point High School; Babe Ruth League of Greenbelt; Greenbelt Little League; Girl Scouts; Greenbelt Labor Day Festival; Eye Glass Program through Prince Georges County School System; Assistance to Needy Families; and others.

Funds for all these activities are raised by members of the Club in a variety of ways, such as selling fruit cakes during the Christmas Season, a New Year's Dance annually, and publication of the Greenbelt Directory bi-yearly.

The following men have served as Club Presidents: Robert Lindeman, 1952; Stanley Provost, 1953; Lloyd Clay, 1954; Richard A. White, 1955; Lloyd L. Moore, 1956; Kenneth Smith, 1957; Emory A. Harman, 1958; William C. Bevan, 1959; C. Wayne Tucker, 1960; Charles Cormack, Sr., 1961; and R. D. Breashears, 1962.

Of the original charter members, numbering twenty-six, only three remain in the Club — Lloyd Clay, Clyde Stripling, and Henry Brautigam. This turnover of members is caused mostly by move-outs to other areas, as well as transfers of jobs out of the area. There are now fifty-four members in the Club.

I like to see a man
proud of his city.
And I like to see him live
So that it is proud of him.
— Abraham Lincoln

TOASTMASTER'S CLUB

Greenbelt Toastmasters Club No. 1287 was started in 1956 and is part of an international organization devoted to helping men to improve their speaking ability. Past Presidents of the Greenbelt TOASTMASTERS CLUB are: Bob Hurst, Bev Fonda, Harold Hufendick, Bob Leo, Jim Williams, Ladd Alexander, Frank Perazzoli, Joe O'Neill, Jim Duffy, and Horace Kramer.

GARDEN CLUB

The Greenbelt Garden Club was formed in the fall of 1938, to stimulate a knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs, to aid in the protection of plants and to encourage civic planning. During the war the club organized the victory gardens, and the "Garden Club Booth" at the annual fairs held on Labor Day achieved wide renown.

Did You Know?

That of the families that voted in the 1938 city council election, only 88 were still in Greenbelt as of August 1957 and only 68 as of June 1962.

That Mrs. Winfield McCamy, recently-retired city clerk, originally came to Greenbelt in August 1938 and shortly thereafter became secretary to the town's first community manager, Roy S. Braden.

That the first dog-and-cat poll was taken in February 1938 — five months after the first residents moved in — and showed that 99 were in favor and 325 against allowing pets in Greenbelt.

Japanese Style

In the early days — and still today — persons from all over the world visited Greenbelt. Here are excerpts from a pre-war version of Greenbelt, appearing in the Japanese magazine "Foto Fact". Its translation into English has a charm of its own.

These towns are called as "Green Belt Town" — in Japanese, "Ryokuchitai-no-machi" — means the town made wholesome, beautiful, and calm by the surrounding parks, fields, and woods. Their names are something very beautiful that can be found out only in poem.

Seven graded elementary school. There are "library for youth" and "Art and Technology Room" in this building. The houses in this town have been constructed to make use of sunshine as possible as they can and also to be able to see very fine sights.

It is one of the prominent characteristics of this town to take great care of trees and lawns. Almost every house has lawn or field instead of concrete roads. Administration of the town is performed by the liberal will power of inhabitants.

The swimming pool can be used free by the inhabitants of "Green Belt" and its vicinity.

There are many benches on which mothers with their children can take rest after their morning shopping.

Gasoline station, like theaters and shops, are under the consumption guild system. It is the first job for consumption guild to manage gasoline stations. Nowadays, consumption guild manages many jobs, and its management and profits are in the hand of a cooperative society of individuals.



Mrs. Ruth Bowman leading the Bunny Hop at a New Nabor Party in May 1953. These parties were organized soon after the sale of the dwelling units to the local cooperative as part of a campaign to acquaint newcomers with Greenbelt's people and institutions.

Early Life In Greenbelt

On the Seventh Anniversary of the first families moving into Greenbelt, Marilyn Maryn, high school editor, recalled some of her experiences as a child during the first hectic year. This article appeared in the Cooperator of September 29, 1944.

On November 16, 1937 we moved into Greenbelt—a little town in the sticks. I don't remember what happened the first day except that we had no furniture other than new Greenbelt beds which my dad had to set up at evening.

The next morning my mother registered my brother and me in the elementary school. We walked along the sidewalk and down the underpass, which was quite a novelty to us. Mrs. Catherine Reed, the principal, took us to our class rooms, located on the first floor, as the second floor was occupied by high school students. I went into Mrs. Parker's room which was the fourth grade. The fourteen students in the class were seated in a semi-circle discussing a model city which they were going to build called "GreenWay". I sat down and Mrs. Parker introduced me to the students, Shirley Mitchell, Paul Strickler, Pat Brown, Mahlon Eshbaugh, LeGrand Benefiel, James Carneal, Ray Bochert, Leonard Lemire, Mary Jane Craig, Ruth Morgan and Lois DeJaeger, all of whom are in my class today. The latter introduced herself to me and said she was my next door neighbor.

Of course the Barber Shop hadn't opened either, but if you could get in touch with Mike Juliano he would gladly come to your home and cut your hair. I distinctly remember one evening when "Mike" came over to trim my brother's hair. We spread paper over the living room floor, put a chair in the middle and Mike finished in no time, only to rush away because his next customer was in C block.

My dad, who worked in Washington, was worried about transportation when his model T Oldsmobile broke down. Luckily our next door neighbor, who had a car, worked in my dad's office and offered to drive him to work. For those who were not so fortunate in getting a ride to work, Greenbelt had a shuttle bus to Riverdale.

Things happened very quickly in the good old days. In no time we had a capable mayor, Lewis Bessemer, and a council to back him. Roy Braden, town manager, took pleasure in being able to call all the kids in town by name. The Cooperator was soon put into motion by the Journalism

Club. The Community Church was set up and later the other churches were also organized. In rapid succession the stores opened. I remember waiting in a line that stretched back to the food store the night the theater opened. The first picture starred Shirley Temple, but I've forgotten the name.

A few days later my mother met me at lunch time. We went into the "furniture store" which was located in what is now the library. Mr. Wallace Mabey, fire chief, director of public safety and assistant town manager, also was in charge of the furniture. With his help we selected the amber maple furniture we have in our home today.

After school I used to go to the "store" for mom. It was the only place where you could buy things in Greenbelt. Located in what is now the valet shop, it sold food, school supplies, and other necessary items. We all anxiously awaited the opening of the co-op food store but it was almost a half year before the grand opening took place. Everyone in town turned out for this occasion and ice cream and cake were distributed among citizens.

Getting back to the earliest days again, Greenbelt boasted a population of about 100. All the store buildings were completed but only C. D. E., Parkway and part of B block were finished. The post office was one of the first services to be established. Every day after school we kids would rush down to the post office and stand in line to get our mail.

I don't know what the modern hep cats would do without a drug store in which they could meet, but in 1937 teen-agers had no place to go. In fact, there were no street lights, so if you wanted to visit your girl friend it became a difficult matter. Most people carried a flashlight with them when they went out at night.

One incident that I will never forget is the day Mrs. Roosevelt visited our fourth grade class and patted Paul Strickler on the head. "I'll never wash that spot," exclaimed the overwhelmed youth.

The high school was finally finished and the entire elementary school building was used by the grade school. The first Christmas party was held in the school auditorium and the whole town turned out. Social clubs and organizations were founded by the dozen. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops were organized. The population tripled and soon Greenbelt be-

In the early days Greenbelt was a source of great sport for part of the metropolitan press which devoted much space to the "regimented" conditions that Greenbelters were subjected to. This so exasperated one of the Cooperator's early columnists George F. Carnes that he tossed off the following column:

Something should be done for the sightseers who come out Greenbelt way over the weekends. It makes me feel bad to see the hurt look on their faces after they have spent the whole afternoon vainly searching for signs of regimentation, liberty-throttling rules and restrictions and barefoot women who use their frigidaires for china closets.

Now Paris, France has its underworld to entertain visitors and the same can be said for San Francisco with its "Tourists' Chinatown", so why can't we rig up something to satisfy the naive curiosity of our sightseers? Why not a little entertainment for them? Say for instance some of us could put on the oldest, ragged clothes we have, pull a rickety chair out on the lawn facing the street and prop our bare feet up in the sunshine. That would give the visitors a chance to see how the underprivileged spends his Sundays, and then too, maybe some newspaper man would happen along and we would get our picture in the paper under a caption something like this: BAREFOOT GREENBELTER CAN'T TELL FRONT FROM BACKYARD.

Portable signs, something light which we could remove after the rubbernecks had gone back home, with large illustrations indicating the dire punishment which would befall anyone who was caught stepping on the grass, hanging out wash after four o'clock, or buying groceries outside of Greenbelt, would serve the purpose of convincing the trekkers that the trip wasn't in vain; that they had so much to be thankful for in the personal liberty and exercise of free will granted them by their own city governments.

Then last, but not least, we could erect a small booth in which we could place a uniformed guard with instructions to salute any and everyone as they left our city limits.

Cooperator, November 23, 1938
came a big town.

Today we have a beautiful city that can boast of many up-to-date conveniences but I shall never forget that first year when Greenbelt was just a little town in the sticks.

Roosevelt Visit

On November 13, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt accompanied by Rexford Guy Tugwell, Resettlement Administrator, spent two hours inspecting the newly - constructed Greenbelt project. The Presidential party made six stops in all. At each one a project principal explained his particular phase of the work.

Landscaping Superintendent Angus MacGregor later reported that the President told him that the tulip poplar was his favorite tree. "Be sure to plant a lot of them," he said. Accordingly, MacGregor "stuck in a few more" and they are concentrated in the 60 block of Crescent.

At the conclusion of his tour, President Roosevelt said: "I have seen the blueprints of this project and have been greatly interested, but the actual sight itself exceeds anything I dreamed of. This is a real achievement and I wish everyone in the country could see it. It is an experiment that ought to be copied by every community in the United States."



Did You Know ?

That the Co-op food store up to the war years closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and that no tipping was allowed in the barber shop and beauty parlor.

That Mrs. Ruth Taylor, Greenbelt's first councilwoman, was also the first woman to be elected to any governing body in the entire history of Prince George's County.

That Greenbelt's Health Department program in 1939 called for annual physical examinations of all school children, clinics for infants and pre-school children, and clinics for smallpox vaccinations, diphtheria inoculations, Schick tests, Wasserman tests, and tuberculosis tests.

That the statue at the center was sculptured by the same person who did the friezes on the exterior of Center School — Lenore Thomas of Accokeek, Maryland.

That one of Greenbelt's first recreational directors was present councilman Ben Goldfaden, appointed in March 1939.

That in the early years the Farm Security Administration arranged for the construction of furniture designed to conform to the dwellings, which it sold to tenants on the installment plan.

That the forerunner of Greenbelt's Labor Day Festival took place on September 7-9, 1939, when the first

annual town fair was held featuring flower, garden, baking, needlework, and athletic contests; also parades, dancing, and concerts.

That the State of Maryland originally ruled that Greenbelt was not entitled to the same services as other Maryland towns because it was not a "taxpaying community", a ruling which was reversed in August 1939.

That Paul Milasi and Albert A. Ellerin were on the original staff of GCS in October 1939.

That the Police Department from September 1938 to September 1941 had horses to patrol the woods and lake during the hunting season.

That original Greenbelters received individual bills for trash collection and for personal property taxes.

That in December 1939, the government set up a one-room hotel apartment at 10-B Parkway to accommodate Greenbelt residents who had overnight guests and no place to conveniently keep them.

That original plans for Greenbelt before the money ran out called for (1) a Greenbelt Inn (where the Plaza Apartments are now located) to house visitors and (2) Greenbelt farms at the outskirts.

That Mrs. Mary Jane Kinzer, present Supervisor of Sales and Service at Greenbelt Homes, Inc., was introduced to Greenbelt in March 1940 as

supervisor of Family and Community Services under the Farm Security Administration.

That the Hatch Act originally operated to prevent Federal employees from running for city offices until a Civil Service Commission ruling in October 1940 restored the privilege to Federal employees of participating in local political activity.

That serving on the first board of directors of Greenbelt Consumer Services elected by Greenbelt residents in January 1940 were present-day Greenbelters Joseph Loftus and Mrs. Carnie Harper.

That recently-resigned GCS manager Samuel Ashelman was first introduced to Greenbelt in March 1940 when, as manager of the Swarthmore, Pa. cooperative, he made a 10-day study of Greenbelt.

That the short cut from Crescent rd. to Route 1 which skirts the edge of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and crosses Indian Creek was completed in August 1940.

That the Capital Transit shuttle bus operation between Greenbelt and Berwyn created a deficit of \$8,600 in the first year, 1939-40.

That on March 11, 1941, the Book Club reviewed the new book "While England Slept" by a young unknown, John F. Kennedy.

That the theater in 1940 showed a series of locally-produced movie newsreels dealing with Greenbelt.

Greenbelt Landmarks

Greenbelt Lake *

Converting 23 acres of swamp into the Greenbelt Lake was the first job tackled back in the beginnings of our community, in 1935. It was a project that took 200 men a year to complete, at a total cost to the Government of about \$75,000.

The swamp was the most heavily wooded spot in the area, with trees averaging 100 feet in height and 30 inches in diameter. These were pulled out by the roots and the stump piles mounted up as high as houses. They burned for two months or more. Some of the logs were used in construction work; the rest were turned over to the county relief board.

When the last of the brush was removed the clay basin had to be drained of swamp water by a series of ditches arranged in a herringbone pattern, which resembled a denuded Christmas tree.

The next step was the building of a 22 foot dam at the west end of the basin. First a concrete core wall was constructed, with a six-foot base extending into the future lake bed to prevent seepage. The outer walls were formed by alternate foot-deep layers of sand, gravel, and clay from the shores and lake bottom. The clay outer facing was veneered with stone where the dam was to protrude above the surface, as a precaution against wave erosion. Strange to say, billows of respectable strength and size are kicked up during local storms. A ten-foot water pipe and an 18-inch cast iron sewer pipe were run through the top of the dam, in case of future building.

After the dam was completed it took the lake a year to fill up, although it is fed by two streams and innumerable springs along the banks, besides rain and melting snow. Some storm and wash water is also emptied into the lake, which is one reason why swimming in the lake was banned. Overflow empties into Paint Branch, and is carried from there into the Anacostia River. As the lake grew it took on a shape roughly like a molar tooth, with the dam as the "grinding surface", and the two coves at the western end corresponding to roots.

* * *

Before the pool was built swim-

* Most of the material in this article was drawn from OUR TOWN columns by Anne Hull, a former staff member of the GREENBELT CO-OPERATOR.

ming in the lake was permitted in areas which were chlorinated and tested daily for bacteria count, in view of the slight pollution noted above. Despite these precautions there was at one time an epidemic of sore throats which was blamed on the lake. It was very difficult to supervise swimming in the lake, too; a Beltsville boy drowned during the summer of June, 1938. Besides these factors, the bottom was very muddy, and there was no good place to construct a beach, nor any way of doing so.

On November 13, 1936, President Roosevelt dumped into the lake the first dipperful of fish from the first of the tubs upon tubs of them furnished by the Bureau of Fisheries. There were 30 adult, large-mouthed bass, 12 to 13 inches long; 60 six-inch large-mouthed bass; 1700 three-inch sunfish; 200 three-inch catfish; 250 three-inch crappie and 600 three inch yellow perch; besides thousands of "fingerlings," a small feed fish. In June, 1939, the Fisheries Bureau experts, judging by the extent of nest building and so on, gave their opinion that the lake might safely and advisedly be fished. On the basis of their recommendations the town management drew up an ordinance to permit fishing. This provided for the issuing of permits by the town, for a small fee, to citizens wishing to fish. The extent of the catch was restricted. When the ordinance was put before the Town Council several local fishermen appeared to plead that fishing not be permitted for one or two more years, and the ordinance was withdrawn.

Several varieties of wild duck were permanently pinioned to the lake by clipping their wings. Among them are canvas backs, mallards, scaups, and wood ducks. The Fisheries Bureau experts said that for the safety of the fish population their number should not exceed 25 or 30.

In season the lake is very popular with picnickers. There are fireplaces with tables and benches overlooking the water. When the lake is frozen it has proved a fine place for skating, with illumination afforded at night by rows of headlights of cars parked along the bank.

Indian Springs

South of Greenbelt Lake is Indian Springs. The area can be reached by walking across the dam and then following a woodland trail that winds between clumps of mountain laurel and wild azalea. The three springs are in a large open clearing, shaded by ancient tulip poplars, where Indian tribes held their conclaves. The warlike Senecas and Sinnehannas were among the last of the local tribes to inhabit the Greenbelt area. Until recent years, Indian arrowheads could often be picked up in the woods.

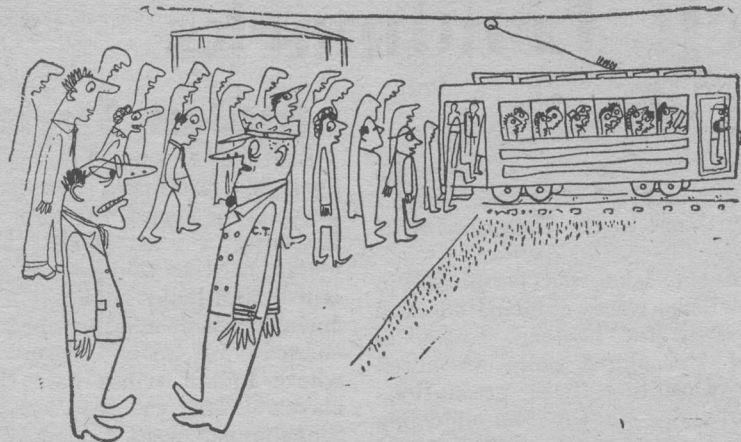
Following the Indians in the late 1700s were settler Isaac Walker and his family, who also appreciated the drinking water and the shade. Walker, then 35 years old, received a patent of land for 200 acres of the southwestern portion of Greenbelt, in the year 1756. One of the five Lords Baltimore then living presented it to him as a result of his past loyalty to the Stuart kings. The Walkers were a long-lived family, and Isaac's great-granddaughter, Mrs. Lucy Walker Lester, sold the property to the federal government when the town of Greenbelt was in the early planning stages. She had been living in the third house built on the same site, not far from the American Legion building on Greenbelt Road. The ruins of this house can still be seen, just off the road.

Isaac Walker served as a lieutenant during the Revolutionary War, and his youngest son Nathan as a private. Two older sons were killed during the war, and buried on the field of battle. The graves on top of the Indian Springs hill are those of Isaac, who died in 1807, and Nathan, who died in 1842. Their wives, as well as several of Isaac and Elizabeth's children who died in infancy, are also buried there. The family cemetery, surrounded by a fence, contains sixteen graves in all. The monument erected there in 1938 by the Daughters of the American Revolution is dedicated to the two Revolutionary War fighters.

The Cemetery

Another family burying ground, once owned by the Turner family, was acquired by the federal government to serve as the Greenbelt cemetery. Only a few Greenbelters, however, have been buried there. The plot, about 300 by 90 feet, is located on a hillside and can be reached by taking the right-hand turn before

"I approved the new plan with reservations. Where are my reservations?"



Parker

This cartoon by Isadore Parker appearing in the November 30, 1945 *Co-operator* proved that despite the perennial struggles with Capital Transit, transportation could be a laughing matter to Greenbelters.

reaching the disposal plant and then driving up the first left-hand fork of the dirt road.

A tall old-fashioned stone bears the name of Thomas F. Turner, who died in 1855 at the age of 45. His is the only one of the older markers bearing a formal inscription; the rest of his family lie under rough stones on which initials have been carved. Because of the distinct mounds, many of the graves appear to be more recent than is actually the case. This is a result of the nature of the soil—clay, combined with a large amount of gravel. A cedar tree visible on a slope above the graveyard once stood in the front yard of the old Turner house. All of the family had moved away when the Government acquired the property.

Landscaping

The major features of Greenbelt's landscaping were laid out at the time the town was built, under the direction of Angus B. MacGregor, formerly head gardener to J. P. Morgan.

The trees and shrubs used in landscaping Greenbelt were all found growing here, with the exception of some evergreens and the Californian privet hedging, which were purchased. MacGregor had many small trees and shrubs growing in a nursery down by the Lake before transplanting them to different parts of town. Greenbelt's thirty varieties of shrubs include forsythia, azalea, spicebush, chokeberry, sweet pepper, sumac and lilac. A few rosebushes and iris plants found around the old farmhouses which were torn down in the Greenbelt area were set out anew.

Greenbelt's 40 to 50 varieties of trees include oaks, locusts, maples,

yellow birches, white pines, hardy magnolias, otterwood, American hornbeam (or ironwood), dogwood, holly, and four varieties of fruit trees: apple, pear, cherry and peach.

MacGregor planted a great many tulip poplar trees, for he had learned that they were favorites of President Roosevelt. The tulip poplar, or tulip tree, indigenous to this area, is the tallest tree in the United States except for the giant redwood of California.

The underground water table in certain areas was unavoidably lowered when the underpasses and sewers were installed. This caused the death of many native trees, especially oaks. They have been replaced by elms, lindens, and tulip poplars.

Did You Know ?

That among the founders of the Community Church were present-day Greenbelters Edward Halley, Helen Cowell and George and Dorothy Eshbaugh.

That Albert "Buddy" Attick, present Superintendent of Greenbelt's Public Works, has lived in Greenbelt all his life, his family home having been located near the Greenbelt Junior High School until it burnt in the winter of 1938.

That the Greenbelt Theater, the nation's first cooperatively-operated movie house, opened on September 21, 1938 with Shirley Temple in "Little Miss Broadway" — prices 30c adults, 15c children.

That the youth of Greenbelt took over the town government on Labor Day 1938, including the operation of the police and fire departments.

That during the war years, the government provided a whole building consisting of 11 bachelor apartments and an enclosed playground

for use as a child day care center.

That house-to-house delivery of mail was not provided Greenbelters by the U. S. post office until July 1, 1942.

That a Greenbelt ordinance of June 1942 offered 25 cents for each quart of Japanese beetles collected and resulted in the collection of 756,000 beetles in the first week.

That Greenbelt voters did not have a separate polling place until 1942 when the American Legion Hall was designated as such for the newly-organized Greenbelt Precinct #3 of the 21st District.

That in the first election in which Greenbelt had its own polling place — in 1942 — the Democratic candidate for governor received 136 votes, the Republican candidate 24 votes.

That up to December 1944, Greenbelt rd. was known as Branchville rd.

That the defense homes up to 1946 were heated by coal.

That present city manager Charles T. McDonald originally came to Greenbelt in August 1946 as PHA maintenance engineer.

That Dr. Hans Wodak came to Greenbelt in August 1944 as physician for Greenbelt Health Association.

That Greenbelt was without a bank until April 1947 when Prince Georges Bank and Trust Company (now Suburban Trust Company) managed by Henry Brautigam, opened its doors.

That David Kane, present Superintendent of Maintenance for Greenbelt Homes, Inc., came to Greenbelt in April 1948 as maintenance engineer for PHA.

That Charles Cormack, Sr. was Community Manager for PHA from July 1946 to October 1949.

That prior to 1951 Greenbelt had its own magistrate - Allen D. Morrison - who handled motor vehicle violations and issued warrants for minor offenses such as assault, non-support, drunkenness, and reckless driving.

That Greenbelt had its own airstrip — Schrom's Airport — until the construction of the Washington-Baltimore Parkway in 1954 forced it out of operation.

That up to March 1954 Greenbelters did not have direct telephone service to Washington, D. C. and that up to March 1960 Greenbelt calls were made by dialing simply the last four numbers.

That up to October 1955, the Co-op supermarket was open on Sunday afternoons.

That the last city-wide poll on dogs and cats took place in May 1957 and showed 722 in favor of a ban on pets and 277 against.